



County of San Diego

JEAN M. SHEPARD
DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Dan Graham, Vice-Chair
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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies Comm.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
S.D. Co. Medical Society
S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Schroeder, David – Fourth District
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City
Leister, Stayce – Pacific Ambulance
Steen, R.N., Pam – Mercy Air
Yates, Judith – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

County Staff Present

Pate, R.N., Rebecca
Ray, Leslie

I. INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Pfohl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Jim Marugg, Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried. One abstention, Bruce Fried, Fifth District, not in attendance at last meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Prehospital/Hospital

MOTION made by Wayne Johnson, Seconded by Katy Green, R.N., to approve policies T-706, T-710, T-711, T-712, T-713, S-022 and T-460 with attached algorithm as submitted. MOTION carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the trauma resource issue. Jim Marugg, Chair, EMCC Prehospital Hospital stated that he discussed it briefly with Bruce Haynes, M.D., County EMS Medical Director, and it was decided it needed to go back to the Medical Audit Committee (MAC) for further review, to possibly be formalized into a protocol. Trauma policies are governed by the Trauma Green Book so a later discussion involving many stakeholders will likely occur.

EMCC Prehospital/Hospital also discussed the continuing problem of offload delays at hospital emergency rooms. The subcommittee decided they would like to bring it to the attention of regulatory agencies and work collaboratively with hospitals to overcome this local, national and global issue. It was noted that at one time last month, there was only one ambulance available for about 20 minutes in the City of San Diego. Transfer of the patient in the emergency room from prehospital provider to hospital continues to be a problem as to when the patient becomes hospital responsibility and is released from the transporting agency. There is also great concern that the past few years have not been bad flu seasons which always contributes to increasing numbers of patients in emergency rooms.

Judith Yates, Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties, added that this is definitely a state-wide issue and legislators are listening and it is hoped that will get the attention of fire marshals. The California Hospital Association is working on Assembly Bill 2207 (Lieu) which would require every hospital to assess the condition of its emergency department every three hours and calculate an overcrowding score. There are also EMTALA regulations and nursing ratios that figure into the equation. Another issue is that homeless and intoxicated people sometimes consume emergency department resources anywhere from six to eight hours and the hospitals have no where to send them.

Mr. Marugg suggested writing a letter on behalf of American Medical Response, San Diego Medical Services Enterprise and other stakeholders to Dr. Haynes and County EMS regarding this issue, which would then be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors. Then the concerns could be relayed to the State level. Chair Bob Pfohl offered to assist in writing the letter with assistance from the San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association. It was also suggested that collaborating with other EMCC agencies throughout the State might be beneficial.

MOTION by Jim Marugg, Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to compose the letter with stakeholder input, circulate it to EMCC members, and discuss at the next EMCC meeting. MOTION carried.

V. DISASTER DRILL UPDATES

A disaster drill schedule was distributed courtesy of law enforcement representatives for general information.

VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

(Rebecca Pate, R.N.): The Advanced EMT Program is currently being developed and current policies are being examined to determine which policies will need to be changed. There will be extra training required for a handful of extra skills. These skills will be helpful for BLS responders in rural areas in particular.

In regard to protocol issues, CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) is being added as a standing order to the respiratory protocol as an optional skill for all ALS agencies. CPAC (County Paramedics Agencies' Committee) is currently working to establish a consensus on which of three device choices will be utilized.

In regard to the Agitated Delirium protocol, paramedics will be able to give Versed as a standing order to out-of-control patients that are agitated for a number of different reasons.

Dr. Haynes is currently working on a tool to evaluate hospitals that are not stroke certified by the Joint Commission to make sure they will meet the criteria to deliver stroke care.

VII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N.)

(Leslie Ray, County EMS): Several Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises were held the past week in the central and south regions of San Diego County with extensive media coverage and they went well. Another exercise will be held in the North County Central Region next week. These drills provide great practice for public health nurses to dispense medication in disaster situations.

The one year mark was recently passed on the STEMI system. Door-to-balloon times were reduced from 122 minutes down to 60 minutes.

Barbara Byous, Administrative Secretary, retired recently after 20 years of County service and Karen Crie was hired in her position to work for Marcy Metz, R.N., EMS Director and Dr. Haynes.

The EMS Coordinator position description is being written in collaboration with Human Resources. Recruitment continues for a Quality Assurance Specialist.

Jeri Bonesteele, R.N., retired last month from County EMS after 13 plus years of County service.

The State will be holding a trauma summit in Sacramento in July and the group will be looking at developing a state-wide trauma plan. Please contact Ms. Metz for more information.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary,
County EMS